

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An austenitic-ferritic stainless steel having a metal structure containing ferrite phase and austenite phase, the amount of (C + N) in the austenite phase being in a range from about 0.16 to about 2% by mass, and the volume percentage of the austenite phase being in a range from about 10 to about 85%.

2. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to claim 1, having about 48% or larger total elongation determined by tensile test.

3. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the stainless steel comprises about 0.2% or less C, about 4% or less Si, about 12% or less Mn, about 0.1% or less P, about 0.03% or less S, about 15 to about 35% Cr, about 3% or less Ni, about 0.05 to about 0.6% N, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities.

4. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to claim 3, wherein the stainless steel comprises about 10% or less Mn, about 1 to about 3% Ni, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities.

5. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to claim 3, wherein the stainless steel comprises about 1.2% or less Si, about 2% or less Mn, about 1% or less Ni, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities.

6. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to claim 3, wherein the stainless steel comprises about 1.2% or less Si, about 4 to about 12% Mn, about 1% or less Ni, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities.

7. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to claim 3, wherein the stainless steel comprises about 0.4% or less Si, about 2 to about 4% Mn, about 1% or less Ni, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities.

8. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to ~~any of claims 3 to 7~~, wherein the stainless steel further comprises one or more of about 4% or less Mo and about 4% or less Cu, by mass.

9. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to ~~any of claims 3 to 8~~, wherein the stainless steel further comprises about 0.5% or less V by mass.

10. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to ~~any of claims 3 to 9~~, wherein the stainless steel further comprises about 0.1% or less Al by mass.

11. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to ~~any of claims 3 to 10~~, wherein the stainless steel further comprises one or more of about 0.01% or less B, about 0.01% or less Ca, about 0.01% or less Mg, about 0.1% or less REM, and about 0.1% or less Ti, by mass.

12. (Currently Amended) An austenitic-ferritic stainless steel ~~showing~~having excellent deep drawability, the stainless steel having austenite and ferrite two-phase structure, and comprising about 0.2% or less C, about 4% or less Si, about 10% or less Mn, about 0.1% or less P, about 0.03% or less S, about 15 to about 35% Cr, about 1 to about 3% Ni, about 0.05 to about 0.6% N, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities, the amount of (C + N) in the austenite phase being in a range from about 0.16 to about 2% by mass, and the volume percentage of the austenite phase being in a range from about 10 to about 85%.

13. (Currently Amended) An austenitic-ferritic stainless steel ~~showing~~having excellent punch-stretchability and crevice corrosion resistance, comprising about 0.2% or less C, about 1.2% or less Si, about 2% or less Mn, about 0.1% or less P, about 0.03% or less S, about 15 to about 35% Cr, about 1% or less Ni, about 0.05 to about 0.6% N, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities, the percentage of the austenite phase in the metal structure being in a range from about 10

to about 85% by volume.

14. (Currently Amended) An austenitic-ferritic stainless steel ~~showing~~having excellent corrosion resistance at welded part, comprising about 0.2% or less C, about 1.2% or less Si, about 4 to about 12% Mn, about 0.1% or less P, about 0.03% or less S, about 15 to about 35% Cr, about 1% or less Ni, about 0.05 to about 0.6% N, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities, the percentage of the austenite phase being in a range from about 10 to about 85% by volume.

15. (Currently Amended) An austenitic-ferritic stainless steel ~~showing~~having excellent resistance to intergranular corrosion, comprising about 0.2% or less C, about 0.4% or less Si, about 2 to about 4% Mn, about 0.1% or less P, about 0.03% or less S, about 15 to about 35% Cr, about 1% or less Ni, about 0.05 to about 0.6% N, by mass, and balance of Fe and inevitable impurities, the percentage of the austenitic phase being in a range from about 10 to about 85% by volume.

16. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to any of claims 12 to 15, wherein the stainless steel further comprises one or more of about 4% or less Mo and about 4% or less Cu, by mass.

17. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to any of claims 12 to ~~16~~15, wherein the stainless steel further comprises 0.5% or less V by mass.

18. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to any of claims 12 to ~~17~~15, wherein the stainless steel further comprises 0.1% or less Al by mass.

19. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to any of claims 12 to ~~18~~15, wherein the stainless steel further comprises one or more of about 0.01% or less B, about 0.01% or less Ca, about 0.01% or less Mg, about 0.1% or less REM, and about 0.1% or less Ti, by mass.

20. (Currently Amended) The austenitic-ferritic stainless steel according to any of claims 12 to ~~19~~15, wherein the amount of (C + N) in the austenite phase is in a range from about 0.16 to about 2% by mass.